

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

No. 22. Vol. III.]

WASHINGTON, MAY 31, 1817.

[Vol. I. FOR 1817.]

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOEL K. NEAD, AT FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

DRAMATIC REVIEW.

MANUEL; a tragedy in five acts: as performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. By the author of "Bertram." Dedicated to Walter Scott, esq.

This is a new work, which has just been published by Moses Thomas, of Philadelphia, from an English copy. The author of it is the Reverend Mr. Maturin, for some time a schoolmaster in Ireland, who represents himself to have lived in a very obscure way in an impoverished condition on the banks of the Liffey for many years, until "Bertram," a former tragedy from his pen, drew upon him the public attention, and the profits of which in some degree relieved his necessities. [For his letter, stating these facts, see this volume of the *National Register*, page 254.]

The story of this play is amongst the most barbarous and bloody that we have ever read. It is made up chiefly of *Love and Murder*; but the gleams of love are so little perceptible through the darkness of the assassinations and suicides and broken hearts, that the whole performance is scarcely any thing more than one continued scene of monstrous villainy and childish folly.

The plot is quite simple. Alonzo, the son of Count Valdi, having overcome the Moors at the battle of Tolosa, in returning alone to his father's castle is murdered by Almorad, an assassin, hired by De Zelos, the kinsman of Valdi, and his next heir after Alonzo. Count Valdi on the murder of his son, becomes distracted, and charges De Zelos as being the author of the assassination; whereupon an appeal takes place before the nobles of Cordova, in which the champion of Valdi, (the repentant Almorad in disguise,) is overcome by Torrismond, the son of De Zelos and his father's vindicator. Count Valdi is, in consequence, banished to Almuncar, whither he is followed by his daughter Victoria, who is violently in love with Torrismond. To Almuncar goes also Ximena, daughter of De Zelos, equally in love with the murdered Alonzo, to die on the cenotaph of the latter. There Ximena finds Almorad, mortally wounded in his late combat, who gives her a dagger, on which he declared the name of Alonzo's murderer was engraved. This dagger she delivers to her brother Torrismond, who, with his father De Zelos, had gone to Almuncar in search of Ximena. The dagger is drawn from its sheath in the presence of the nobles of Cordova, and the name of De Zelos appears. The whole concludes with mortal distractions on the part of the count Valdi and a stabbing match between Tor-

rismond and his father. The ladies, like all ladies very deeply in love, and who cannot get married, die as a matter of course.

Simple as the plot of this play is, it has little claim to originality. It is mostly a plagiarism from many plays; and in adulterated language conveys the conceptions of more happy writers. For example: what reader of judgment will not recognise in Manuel count Valdi, and De Zelos and Torrismond, copies from the count de Valmont, the baron Longueville, and the Florian, of the *Foundling of the Forest*? In the distractions of count Valdi and the tenderness shown for him by his daughter Victoria, who will not perceive that it is awkwardly taken from old *King Lear* and the amiable Cordelia? This resemblance is the more striking, inasmuch as Mr. Maturin, in his distractions of the count, has derogated from the affecting, and in some sort sublime, madness of Lear, by putting into Valdi's mouth a burlesque imitation of the song of mad Tom. Poor Tom says, "I'll sit upon the rain-bow," &c. and count Valdi, in his delirium, exclaims,

"I'll grasp the thunderbolt—rain storms of fire—
There—there—I strike! the whizzing bolt hath struck him!
He shrinks—his heart's blood hisses in the flames!"

The abbe du Pradt, in relating the conversation of Napoleon at Warsaw immediately after his reverses in Russia, represents the ex-emperor repeatedly to have said, "There is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous;" a just remark, and one that will very well apply, in this instance, to Mr. Maturin's personification of a noble maniac: for, in stepping out of the simple, natural, characters of Shakespeare, he has made his copy more an object of laughter than of compassion.

The third scene in the second act of *Manuel*, where a boat is represented as coming down the stream of the Guadalquivir with the assassins of Alphonzo, is obviously borrowed from the *Foundling of the Forest*, in which the dumb lady, the mother of Florian, is represented as about to perish in a boat, something in the same way, by the hands of murderers.

The following passage, in a speech of Torrismond, is another example of plagiarism:

"Oh! place me on the kindling ridge of fight,
Where fear was never nam'd or mercy felt,
And feel this weak pulse, if its quicker motion
Betrays one added throb.
Against the darts of mixed and madd'ning hosts
Place but one foe, and let that foe be me:
There, if I shrink, the voice that calls me coward
I'll unrepenting bear as I do think."

In this quotation may we not plainly see a feeble paraphrase of *Macbeth*? with his

———"Dare me to the desert with thy sword:

If trembling I inhibit thee, protest me

The baby of a girl."

Indeed, the *thefts of thought* in this tragedy are so numerous, in some parts palpable, in others rather hidden, that they display themselves to our mind in almost every page. They rise to our view, more or less distinctly recognised, in the same manner as physiognomical images appear to the imagination of a too volatile brain, following in such thronging succession, that we cannot divest ourselves of the constant conviction of numerous similitudes. Even the *denouement* of the piece is borrowed, with slight variation, from Dimond's play of the *Peasant Boy*, where the baron Montaldi's guilt is detected by the exposure of his wounded arm; Mr. Maturin having merely substituted a dagger for a wound.

Of all the kinds of literary plagiarism, or borrowing without acknowledgment, that of purloining the *thought* is the vilest; because, being more difficult of detection, there is more knavery in it. In many instances it requires great acumen of expression, and sometimes it is nearly impossible, to exemplify the offence; for you will find that in reading the same work, or a criticism upon it, especially without the most studious attention, the same words do not give rise, in the mind of every reader, to the same thoughts: but if the words were purloined with the thoughts, (and if an author must steal, had he not better steal every thing ready made to his hand?) the plagiarism would be glaring and of easy exposure. We know not how to explain the nature of that description of literary theft which we here condemn better than by digressing, for a moment, to lord Byron, the most extravagant poetical plagiarist of the times.

Almost every lover of poetry has, we presume, read Campbell's *Pleasures of Hope*. In the second part of that work readers of taste could not have failed to pause, with approbation, upon the following beautiful lines:

"In joyous youth, what soul hath never known
Thought, feeling, taste, harmonious to its own?
Who hath not paus'd, while Beauty's pensive eye
Ask'd from his heart the homage of a sigh?
Who hath not own'd with rapture-smitten frame,
The power of grace, the magic of a name?"

In his *Bride of Abydos*, Byron thus caricatures the thoughts of Campbell:

"Who hath not proved how feebly words essay
To fix one spark of Beauty's heavenly ray?
Who doth not feel—until his failing sight,
Faints into dimness with its own delight—
His changing cheek—his sinking heart confess
The might—the majesty of loveliness?"

The glowing simplicity of intelligent thought

in Campbell, as we think it will at once strike every lover of natural sentiment, is inverted and confused by a tawdry affectation of refinement in Byron; who, in this passage, as in many other of his productions, is a thankless borrower.

To return to the new tragedy of Mr. Maturin. It is meagre as it respects incident, and erroneous as it regards character. And the circumstances of which it is made up are full of improbabilities. The master crime of De Zelos has nothing of stratagem in it; it is a naked, abominable murder. The love of Victoria and Ximena, has scarcely any thing of delicacy in it. The passion, in them, is represented unveiled, voluptuous, personal, vehement, and seems to admit of no alternative between enjoyment or death. The character of De Zelos is a strange, unnatural, compound of villainies; and is, we conceive, an abortive attempt to transplant the disposition of the Zanga of the *Revenge*, with a mixture of more modern atrocious dramatic personifications. Manuel himself is a personage not in nature. The Spanish grandees, of former ages, are famous for the firmness as well as the fierceness of their tempers; and Mr. Maturin has metamorphosed one of those high-minded noblemen into a puling, loquacious, railing, raving dotard. But if the incidents and the characters be few and erroneous, the motives of the actions displayed are mostly improbable. De Zelos, without any intimation of previous profligacy or gradual acquaintance with vice, the natural course of villainy, is made to rush all at once into the commission of the foulest of crimes; and although he is portrayed as extremely cautious in revealing his murderous plot in his various conversations with his children and others, he is nevertheless described as so very silly as to lend the assassin Almorad a dagger with his own name engraved on it. To render this character of De Zelos still more absurd, after we have been informed of his total destitution of virtuous principle, we are treated with various involuntary startings and exclamations, something in the manner of Macbeth at sight of the ghost of Banquo; the author forgetting that Macbeth was a man with a strong tincture of virtue, and was more led into crime by the incitements of his lady, than by any inherent evil inclination of his own. The sudden change from scorn to a flattering deportment towards De Zelos, in the nobles of Cordova, is also attributed to a highly improbable motive: since, although by the death of Alonzo, De Zelos became the heir to Manuel, yet, even supposing those nobles so corrupt, common cunning would have dictated to them the policy of a due reverence of the old count whilst he lived, because he still had power in his own hands, and favors to bestow: But, in truth, the whole story of the con-

duct of those nobles to Manuel, the trial of the appeal before them, and the banishment of Valdi, are a gross and unmerited reflection upon the chivalry of Spain, in an age when it was most gallant and pure. Alonzo's supposed return too, *alone*, instead of returning at the head of his victorious army, or surrounded by a select number of friends, is very improbable; and can only be ascribed to the reverend author's having borrowed too copiously from the *Foundling of the Forest*, where Florian is made to do the same thing. Florian, however, was a mere subordinate officer, and not the triumphant leader of Christian battalions which had beaten the Moors in glorious combat.

It would be quite tedious, and it is not, we think, necessary, further to point out the incongruities we have remarked in the perusal of Manuel; but we cannot refrain from adding to what we have already said on that head, an observation on the ridiculousness of the artifice which (to make the auditory of the play-house acquainted with Almorad's repentant disposition we suppose) brings forward Mendizabel with a tale of the assassin's having hurried into the Justiza's chamber, and popping his black hand before Mendizabel's eyes, muttered "De Zelos is a villain!" Why should not the assassin Almorad at once denounce De Zelos as Alphonzo's murderer? From doing so, it appears, he was deterred by the circumstance of his having taken an oath. A man take a bribe to commit murder, and yet be bound to secrecy by an *oath*! At this, one might be almost induced to join in the merriment of the Irishman's knife, which, according to the account of its owner, was always disposed to *laugh at a lock upon leather*.

The honorable judges of our courts, and the gentlemen of the bar in particular, will, no doubt, be highly gratified to learn that Mr. Maturin has discovered a new mode of proof in criminal cases: It is, to be sure, neither visible, nor tangible, nor *in propria persona*, nor by the record, nor by tradition; yet it is, according to the reverend writer on the banks of the Liffey, "*voiceless, but legible to the soul's clear eye*:" it testifies by a "*whisper of the soul*," audible only to the ear of the accuser, and establishes facts "*by dark array of thronging circumstance, which, to the inmost soul conviction brings, but falters in its passage to the tongue*." As counsellor Phillips has lately "*read the muses*" to their lordships in Ireland in the case of Blake versus Wilkins, we do not see why our American lawyers may not be allowed to quote the tragedy of Manuel as the law of evidence. On the whole, however, it will not, we presume, be considered strange, that no legal con-

viction of Zelos ensued upon the charge of the count Valdi against him, when we recollect that the old gentleman had no better testimony.

We have judged Mr. Maturin upon the merits of Manuel alone, having never read his play of Bertram; and it is with regret that we are compelled to believe that it remains for him still to make much acquaintance with human nature before he can succeed well in the writing of tragedy. He has told us, in a letter to a friend in Charleston, South Carolina, that he had been a teacher until 30 years of age; it is, therefore, to be feared that in his school-room, and not on the great theatre of the world, he has formed his conclusions with regard to the operation of the human passions.

As to the language of the play, it is almost always above the thoughts, and consequently swells into bombast. Yet we do not pretend to deny but what there are very fine thoughts in the piece, which, expressed with greater propriety, would do credit to the author. The following lines would be much more appropriate from the tongue of a love-sick maiden than from the count Valdi:

"Armies of griefs shall troop by my sad side,
Whole hosts of banded groans, tear-wasted nights,
And pining days that wake to curse the sun."

By the way, Sylvester Daggerwood would say, that the notion of a *day's waking to curse the sun*, is very pretty!

The subjoined rant, in ordering an equipage for a journey, reminds us very forcibly of the *heralds* of Mr. Crononhotonthologos, with his "Go call a coach, and let a coach be called," &c.

"Ho! within!

Prepare my chariot—arm my vassals—haste!—
Caparison my fleetest steeds for th' journey!"

In one or two instances, Mr. Maturin seems to have been embarrassed as to the manner of getting his personages off the stage. This occurs at the end of the first act, when, having huddled the characters all together, and wrought up a prodigious agony, "Manuel stands pointing with a terrible look at De Zelos," and exclaims "*There!*"—Upon which the curtain drops, and the audience would doubtless be left in a staggering state of surprise. The same thing takes place at the end of the third act, where all the parties kneel around the bier, and shout "*Vengeance! eternal vengeance!*" when the curtain also drops. Sheridan, in the *Critic*, has very happily ridiculed this awkwardness of the stage, in the passage where one of the actors asks—"Pray, sir, how am I to get off?"—"You, pshaw! what the devil signifies how *you* get off; edge away at the top, or where you will!"

What effect the machinery and decorations of the stage may give to the tragedy of Manuel, we

know not : but, as a literary composition, we conceive it to be altogether below mediocrity.

INAUGURAL SPEECH

OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT.

Gentlemen of the Council,

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of
the House of Representatives :*

I enter upon the duties of the honorable station which has been assigned me, with emotions which I cannot describe. After a long absence from the state, I found myself, on my return, almost a stranger in the land of my fathers; and, till a recent period, I should have deemed no event more improbable than that which has rendered it my duty to address you from this place.

You, gentlemen, are all witnesses that the public suffrages have not been influenced by my solicitations or exertions; neither ought I to attribute the invaluable proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens, which at this time demands my grateful acknowledgments, to personal favor. If, indeed, my countrymen have been in some degree influenced in their choice by a favorable estimate of the services I have performed in various stations, still it is my duty to acknowledge that those services were commenced and continued under the guidance of illustrious men, who were among the founders of our nation; and that to the wisdom of their precepts, whatever has appeared to be most meritorious in my conduct, ought chiefly to be referred. It is sufficient honor for me to have obtained their confidence and approbation. Disclaiming all pretensions to a participation of their glory, I cannot omit to express the reverence I entertain for those sages, whom no artifices could deceive, no temptation seduce, no dangers intimidate. Their names have been already inscribed on the imperishable tablets of history, and in now tendering my homage to those, who, by divine favor, were instrumental in achieving our independence, and establishing our government, I presume that I perform a duty, which will be repeated by every future generation with increasing gratitude.

In attempting to perform the duty of inviting your attention to such subjects as, in my judgment, require the consideration of the legislature, I am not insensible of the peculiar delicacy of my situation, arising not only from inexperience, but from the want of precise information respecting the actual situation of our public affairs. While I rely with confidence on the wisdom and intelligence of those whom I have the honor to address, I entreat that the opinions I advance may be considered as the sincere convictions of my mind, declared under a deep sense of those obligations of duty and gratitude which bind me to my country. At the same time it is my ardent desire that the consequences of any misapprehensions of the true interests of our constituents, which I may have involuntarily entertained, may be obviated by a rigorous examination.

As the ancient system of taxation established in this state, has ceased to be adapted to the circumstances of the people, I recommend that measures be adopted, with a view to a deliberate and systematical revision. To this end, the formation of statements, exhibiting in detail the component articles which form the general list, both in respect to the state, and particular townships, with

accounts of the annual contributions of the people for every purpose, distinguishing the permanent from the extraordinary expenditures, appear to be expedient. In forming a new system which must affect every individual, it is proper to combine every resource of information, and to possess data, by which the effect of every principle may be fairly estimated.

From sources of information collected at different times, and from continued reflections, my mind is convinced that the effects of the present system are far more injurious than can have been generally supposed; and as illustrations of this opinion, I submit the following observations to your indulgent consideration :

In respect to the capitation tax, it may be observed, that an assessment of sixty dollars in the general list is equal to that on *twenty-four* acres of the best alluvion meadow in the counties of Hartford or Middlesex; or to that on *forty-eight* acres of the best meadow land in any other part of the state; or to that on *one hundred and seventy-five* acres of the best wood or timbered land in the vicinity of our navigable waters; or to that on a first rate new brick or stone house, containing *twelve* fire places, in either of our cities; that deducting according to a moderate estimate, the cost of clothing and other necessary personal expenses, the annual contributions of a laboring man without property, are, on a medium calculation for the state, equal to *one sixteenth* part of his income.

Other taxes which affect farmers of the middling condition are not dissimilar in their operation. Their horses and oxen employed in agriculture, cannot be regarded as more eligible objects of taxation than ploughs, harrows, and other instruments of husbandry, the tools of a mechanic, or the library of a lawyer or physician. Though all these articles have an intrinsic value, yet, whenever they are sold, they must be immediately replaced. Distinctly considered, they are objects of *expense* rather than of *profit*, being merely aids to that skill and industry by which income is accumulated, and without which, neither can be exerted with success.

The same observations are applicable with equal force to the produce of dairies, tillage, and the growth of stock on a farm, so far as these increments are required for the support of a family. The physical wants of persons are so equal, that with the exception of persons reduced to absolute slavery, the consumption of those articles which constitute the *common food* of the people, must always be in proportion to the *number* rather than the *wealth* of different families. Hence it has been regarded as an axiom in finance, that taxes levied on the consumption of the necessities of life, are nearly equivalent to uniform taxes on persons without reference to property.

Although the object is of minor importance, yet the operation of the assessment on *fire-places* is very unequal. In our climate three fire-places are occasionally necessary to the comfortable accommodation of every family. According to our system, the tax is not imposed on the building as an index of the wealth or income of the occupant, but on *all* fire-places, whether used or not, and with reference to the condition of the building as being new or decayed. Hence it must frequently happen that the cottage of a man in very moderate circumstances will be subject to a high-

er assessment than the ancient, but comfortable mansion of his opulent neighbor.

The assessment on mills, machinery, and manufactures; on commercial investments; on the profits resulting from trades, professions, and employments; and on monies loaned on interest, are, in my opinion, liable to the most decisive objections. Unless they are imposed according to uniform and merely nominal rates, for the purpose of collecting statistical information, they are necessarily arbitrary and unequal. So far as they have any operation, they tend to depress talents, skill, and industry; they expose individuals to odious investigations and comparisons, and serve to expel capital from the state.

It is an obvious policy of this state to limit, by all reasonable means, those emigrations which menace our resources. Fortunately for the people, this object can be attained by the alluring influences of interest and affection only. These may be manifested by exonerating industry and skill from partial burdens, and by encouraging the free circulation of capital and credit. In proportion to the improvements in the arts, and the progress of civility, the interests of the community become involved. Our state of society has already acquired such a degree of maturity, that agriculture, commerce, and the mechanic arts, have become mutual supports and dependencies, which must flourish or decay together. Each of these interests are equally affected by those laws by which contracts are formed and adjusted, and to all, an exact adherence to justice, as the only basis of a firm credit, are equally essential. Owning to the subdivisions of real property, the farmers, hitherto the most independent class of citizens, cannot pursue their business to advantage, without a pecuniary capital, or an occasional resort to credit. Some estates are best adapted to tillage; others for pasture; and in a third, winter forage is the most abundant. Hence arises the necessity for mutual credits, or the use of capital, which may be fairly purchased, but which will retire from the influence of legal coercion.

The mechanic arts have sometimes been represented as unfavorable to public morals. If instances can be adduced where artisans have become a degraded class of men, the causes of their depression are to be discovered in political regulations, which have restrained their liberty and reduced them to poverty. The nature of their employment manifestly tends to a different result. It is in the work-shop that habits of order and attention to the effects of intelligent design are necessarily cultivated, and that fidelity, economy, and mutual co-operation, are discovered to be duties of indispensable obligation.

The freedom with which I have thought it my duty to disclose my sentiments respecting the operation of the existing system of taxation, upon the interests of a great proportion of our constituents, might, if my motives were unexplained, expose me to the effects of impressions, which self-respect requires me to obviate. It is now more than twenty years since I presented a report to the House of Representatives of the United States, in which the exhausting effects of unequal systems of taxation, in several of the states, especially in New England, were distinctly described. The opinions then expressed were not dissimilar from those now submitted to your consideration. As the principles of that report were approved

by congress, and as the benefits of the consequent system, in equalizing the public contributions, have since been demonstrated by experience, I consider that I may fairly claim to be exempted from any suspicion of motives arising from my present situation, if I earnestly recommend a rule of taxation, which has received the sanction of the United States, to which I would add a few objects of assessment connected with our local circumstances, as being best adapted to promote the interests of the public.

There are, I believe, no principles in which the friends of civil liberty have more generally concurred, and in respect to which their opinions have been more emphatically pronounced, than that judges of the supreme judicial courts should hold their offices, during good behaviour, with salaries adequate to their independent support, and that they should never be permitted to exercise the functions of legislators.

The experience of every age has demonstrated that no science can be improved and perfected, unless its interests are confided to the protection of a particular profession. The science of law, as it comprehends a knowledge of the human character, and the rights and duties of individuals in every situation and under every modification of society, ought to be cherished with peculiar attention. Though no controversies have ever existed respecting the general principles of moral and social obligation, yet the regulations of every free and civilized state, must be numerous, complicated, and artificial, and the knowledge and proper application of them must require faculties of the mind which are rarely combined. Whenever the laws have become fluctuating and arbitrary, they cease to be rules proper for the direction of free citizens; and whenever their expositors are influenced in their decisions by the veering gales of party politics, the lives, liberties, and property of the people are rendered insecure. Moreover, history informs us that disorders in the administration of justice, are, of all political evils, the least susceptible of redress.

Prior to the close of the revolutionary war, the judges of the superior court were generally, if not invariably, designated from among the members of the council. In May, 1784, a law was enacted by which the office of a judge of the superior court was declared to be incompatible with a seat in the legislature, or in congress. It was, however, at the same time provided, that the judges should thereafter hold their offices during the pleasure of the general assembly. The separation of the judicial and legislative functions has remained complete, yet as the commissions of the judges have been limited to a single year, the security, and perhaps dignity of their stations have been somewhat impaired.

It is conceded that the legislature of this state has hitherto recognized the principles which appear as fundamental articles in most of the American constitutions, by admitting in practice that the judges are in equity entitled to re-appointments during good behaviour, or the continuance of their ability to discharge the duties of their respective trusts. Still there is a manifest distinction between the tenure of an office during the pleasure of the general assembly, and a tenure for a single year. In the one case, the office is defeasible by a majority of one branch of the legislature, while in the other, the concurrence of both branches is necessary to effect a removal.

As the principles of the act of 1784, in effect approximate to those declared in the constitutions of Massachusetts, and several of the other states; as the sanctuary of justice cannot be rendered too secure; and especially as our bench is at this time adorned with judges distinguished for learning, talents and purity of character, I presume that no period more unexceptionable than the present can be expected to occur, for the restoration of provisions of the highest importance to the present generation and to posterity.

There are no subjects respecting which the sensibility of freemen is more liable to be excited to impatience, than in regard to the rights of conscience, and the freedom of suffrage. So highly do the people prize these privileges, that they have sometimes ascribed to unfriendly motives towards particular sects and denominations, such regulations as were sincerely intended to secure an equality of rights to every portion of the community. Whenever the public mind appears to be considerably agitated on these subjects, prudence requires that the legislature should review its measures, and by reasonable explanations or modifications of the laws, restore public confidence and tranquillity.

Happily for us, the principles which must govern all deliberations on these subjects, are neither abstruse nor uncertain. It is the right and duty of every man, publicly and privately, to worship and adore the Supreme Creator and Preserver of the Universe, in the manner most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; and no man or body of men have, or can acquire, by acts of licentiousness, impiety, or usurpation, any right to disturb the public peace, or control others in the exercise of their religious opinions or worship.

Though the Gospel of Christ, like the Ark of God, does not require the support of human strength, yet it is conducive to good order, piety, and morality, that public teachers of religion should be designated, and that laws providing efficient remedies for enforcing the voluntary contracts of the people for their support, should be instituted and constantly maintained.

In respect to the most suitable mode of supporting the ministers of religion, there has existed some diversity of opinion among different denominations of Christians. That by fixed salaries has been, and probably will continue to be, most generally approved. In whatever mode the support is afforded, the history of the Church proves, that such has been the attachment of the people to their pastors, arising from veneration for their virtues, gratitude for the consolations they afford, and the utility of their influence when employed in promoting peace and concord in society, that governments have more frequently found it expedient to restrain, than to stimulate the public munificence. It may also be observed, that the great body of the clergy have always enjoyed the highest degrees of esteem, liberality, and influence under governments of a popular form, and where the greatest equality of condition has subsisted among the people.

In regard to the manner in which the right of suffrage ought to be exercised, it may be remarked that not only the purity, but the freedom of the elective franchise, according to the dictates of private judgment, appear to have been cautiously secured by our ancient institutions. As every freeman is bound by a solemn oath, that he will

gives his votes and suffrages, as in his conscience he judges will conduce to the best good of the state, without respect to persons or favor of any man; as motives of friendship, personal favor, and even private interest, are, by this obligation, excluded from consideration, it was inferred to be but reasonable, that the freemen in forming their decisions with reference to the persons most suitable to fill offices of honor or profit, should be exempted from those conflicts of feeling, which personal solicitations, the influence of office, or collisions of opinion, have a tendency to excite. It must have been upon these principles that the law has declared it to be a penal offence, merely to offer to a freeman a written vote, without being previously solicited. The legislature will, in their wisdom, discern whither any well founded complaints of the violation of these principles have arisen, in consequence of the present mode of exercising the right of suffrage, and in that case will doubtless apply the proper remedy.

It is the policy of every wise state to consider well its situation and resources, and by systematical arrangements to acquire and maintain some honorable distinction among its neighbors, founded on a principle the least exposed to depression. In whatever relates to education, or the means of unfolding and directing the human faculties to objects connected with the great interests of society, present and future, this state has nothing to apprehend from external competitions and rivalships. It cannot be a question whether all our existing institutions ought to be maintained, but in what degree, and in what manner they can best be invigorated, extended, and directed to new objects of public utility. It is certain that no fame can be so durable, as that which would arise from the possession of institutions for the cultivation of the human intellect, of acknowledged pre-eminence; and in proportion to our success in obtaining this distinction, will be the extension of an influence more brilliant and useful than any which can be derived from accumulations of wealth or territorial dominion.

A general view of the circumstances of the state, presents subjects of consideration which require grave, united, and patriotic councils, founded on a just estimate of our situation. In the salubrity of our climate; in the fertility of our soil; in our facilities for external and internal commerce; in the extent and variety of our industry and skill; and in the intellectual endowments and energies of the people, we may securely confide; but we cannot conceal the evidences every where present, that our wealth has diminished; that commerce has declined; that agriculture languishes; and that the factories and mechanic arts, from which a great proportion of the people derive their support, are oppressed by the stagnation of markets, and the deficiency of an uniform medium of exchange.

Some of these embarrassments are not peculiar to this state, and are owing to the calamitous and impoverished condition of other countries. The redress of others has, very properly, been confided to the national councils, and from the operation of their measures, relief is gradually extending among the people. Still much remains to be accomplished by our collective and individual exertions, and much may be hoped from those sanative principles inherent in free governments, which serve to supply the deficiencies, or correct the errors of legislation.

An investigation of the causes which produce the numerous emigrations of our industrious and enterprising young men, is by far the most important subject which can engage our attention. We cannot justly repine at any improvement of their condition. They are our relatives and friends, who, in the honorable pursuit of comfort and independence, encounter voluntary toils and privations, and the success of their efforts affords a most exhilarating subject of contemplation.—Still it is certain that the ardor for emigration may be excessive, and perhaps the time has arrived, when it will be wise in those who meditate removals, to compare the value of what they must relinquish, with what they can expect to acquire; and to reflect that schools, churches, roads, and many other establishments, necessary to the comfort, preservation and dignity of society, are appendages of real property in old states; and that in a comparative estimate, the expenses of forming these establishments anew, ought to be added to the first cost and other charges incident to new settlements. On our part it is important to consider whether every thing has been done which is practicable, to render the people contented, industrious and frugal, and if causes are operating to reduce any class of citizens to a situation which leaves them no alternative but poverty or emigration, in that case to afford the most speedy relief.

I hope to be excused if I express a decided conviction that the success of the manufacturing establishments of this country, is connected with our most essential interests—a state which is dependent on another for clothing, arms, provisions, or the instruments by which they must be procured, cannot be tranquil, and must be insecure. I have no doubt that our advantages and resources for ensuring the complete success of these establishments, are superior to those of any other people: and I firmly believe that the embarrassments under which they labor, are temporary; and that they will diminish under the protection afforded them by the National Government, and the operation of powerful causes which are developing in their favor. Still, owing to the stagnation of commerce and exchange, the present is an interesting crisis; and they now need all the patronage which can be afforded them by government and public opinion. All which I venture to recommend at present is, that until our system of revenue can be revised and equalized, that they be exempted from assessments, capitation taxes, and services in the militia; and that as doubts have been excited, whether manufacturing establishments are consistent with the general policy of this State, that this question may be settled, by a resolution expressing the sense of the Legislature.

Notwithstanding every embarrassment incident to the present period, the rise, progress, and actual condition of this State, in connection with the American Republic, affords just cause for patriotic exultation. In particular I desire to thank God, that my existence in this life has been allotted, during a period distinguished by remarkable events; that I have constantly witnessed his protecting care of our beloved country; that I have seen the tree of Liberty, the emblem of our Independence and Union, while it was a recumbent plant, fostered by vigilance, defended by toil, and not unfrequently, watered with tears; and that by His favor, I now behold it in the vigor of youth-

ful maturity, standing protected from violation, by the sound heads, glowing hearts, and strong arms of a new generation, elevating its majestic trunk towards Heaven, striking its strong roots in every direction through our soil, and expanding its luxuriant branches over a powerful, united and prosperous nation.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

General Assembly,
May Session, 1817.

INAUGURAL SPEECH

OF THE GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND.

To the hon. Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Rhode Island.

It is the boast and pride of the citizens of the United States of America, that they alone, of all the nations of the earth, are privileged in choosing whom they will, to watch over their affairs, and to direct in their public councils. This inheritance was bequeathed us by our fathers, and we are bound to transmit the blessing, unimpaired, to posterity.

In reviewing the political events of nations, we have much reason to be thankful to the Supreme Ruler of the universe, for casting our lot in this "New World," for here alone rational liberty is enjoyed. Here we behold the asylum of the oppressed—a country growing in wealth, population and virtue—respected abroad and admired at home—at peace with all nations, and having entangled alliances with none—possessing a character for wisdom, valor and justice—our public burthens daily lessening, and our empire peaceably extending, with a rapidity unparalleled in the history of nations.

Such, fellow-citizens, is the situation of our common country, at the time we are intrusted with the political destinies of Rhode Island. Be it our care to preserve her rights in the participation of those blessings.

Although the clangor of arms during the late conflict with Great Britain has not been heard at our immediate firesides, yet the citizens of this state have not been exempt from a share of the public burthens; they have, however, contributed their portion to the public wants, with a promptness becoming freemen, determined to maintain inviolate the principles declared by the sages of 1776. Though demagogues may have attempted to make a stalking-horse of the necessity of the times, the people have remained true to themselves and their country, and kept in view its honor and independence.

The philanthropist will regret the frequent recurrence of wars, which tend to impoverish and demoralize society; but we should recollect they always spring from the degeneracy of man: and that a defensive war is not only just but even necessary. The names of GREENE, of PERRY, of ALLEX, and other heroes, by offering themselves in the front of battle, in defence of their country's rights, have been covered with glory, and will ever be remembered by their grateful countrymen.

It is true that peculiar occurrences have caused temporary embarrassments to some of our citizens; but it is confidently hoped that the approaching season will dispel them, and a plentiful harvest crown their labors.

According to the ancient usages of this state, the present session of the legislature will be limit-

ad to the election of officers for the ensuing year. In performing this part of our duty, I trust we shall divest ourselves of all party animosities, and carefully investigate and decide on the merits of the candidates by this criterion only—"Are they honest, capable, and faithful to the constitution."

On this occasion I cannot omit calling your particular attention to the judiciary department of this state. Is the system perfect in all its parts? Does every man, according to our bill of rights, obtain justice freely, completely, promptly, and without delay? If, on a review of this subject, amendments are deemed expedient, I would suggest for your consideration, whether the present time does not afford an opportunity.

It is a fact, established by experience, that an enlightened and upright judiciary constitutes a main pillar in the edifice of freedom. What avails the name of liberty, if our persons and property are unprotected, either from violence, the law's delay, or an uncertainty of judicial opinions?

On this first occasion of my addressing you, it may not be amiss to give this public assurance, that at all times I will endeavor faithfully to administer the executive functions vested in me, and will cheerfully contribute my aid to any measure that may have for its object the security of the lives, liberty and property of our fellow-citizens, and to perpetuate the republican principles of our government.

N. R. KNIGHT.

May 8, 1817.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

[It is with much pleasure that we lay before the public, in the *National Register*, the following well drawn report of major KEANEY, of the engineer department: a young gentleman well known and remarkable for assiduity and intelligence in the discharge of his duties. The report was printed by a special order of the House of Representatives of the United States.]

City of Washington, Nov. 5, 1816.

Sir—In obedience to so much of the order of the honorable the secretary of War, dated May 31, 1816, as relates to the connexion of the navigation of Elizabeth river, in Virginia, with that of the waters of North Carolina, I have the honor to submit the following report:

The routes ordered to be examined, are those two for the opening of which charters have been granted by the legislatures of Virginia and North Carolina—one beginning at or near Whitehouse's landing on the Eastern branch of Elizabeth river, is proposed to be cut by the way of Kempsville forming at that place an angle, and running thence nearly on a right line to the Upper Landing on North river, and will occupy a distance of between 8 and 9 miles.

North river cannot correctly be called a stream, it is rather a creek or arm of Currituck sound, whose small ramifications are found in a low swampy country, which adds to them scarcely any further supply than is derived from the down-fall water; a slight swell of the ground separates North river from the small branches of North West river, and the southern branch of Elizabeth. The lowest ground between North Landing and the eastern branch of Elizabeth river is along the Beachen swamp and the branch of North river

which interlocks with it—this route, to some persons, has appeared to be the most eligible for the "Coastwise Canal;" but the projector has for many cogent reasons rejected it, and proposes to run the canal along higher ground to the eastward of it. It is not, therefore, to be supposed that a supply of water can be had for a canal, so situated, from the west; nor is the country to the east of the proposed route much better calculated to afford a supply, the Pungo branch of North river being the nearest body of water to it, (except mere catch-water drains) and that flows over a tract of land parallel with, but lower than it.

This part of the route was examined in company with gentlemen who had an interest in it, and who acknowledged the impracticability of procuring a stream sufficient for the required purpose; an opinion, the result not only of personal examination, but of the clear and unanimous testimony of every resident whom I consulted.

It being impracticable to procure a stream, or even down-fall water, sufficient to feed the canal, it then becomes necessary to incur the difficulties, risk, and expense, of making a cut 8 or 9 miles on one level, at least two or three feet below the level of the neap-tides, in a swampy country; or to avoid the swamps, recourse must be had to the high ground, and the expense increased beyond any calculations that have yet been exhibited in relation to the project—ⁱⁿ doing so the first difficulties of the work only are avoided, and there yet remains the difficulty of cutting below the level of the tides in a country which the great waters approach on all sides. But it is proposed to supply the canal by means of steam machinery, and this is the only feasible mode that has been suggested; the objection offered to it, is that it would be a constant source of expense, increasing with the decrease of timber.

From North Landing the river is navigable for craft of any burden, except at one shoal on which there is nearly 5 feet water at high tide. Abreast of White's House, on Church's Island, in Currituck Sound, and 6 miles S. E. of the court house, there is another shoal of black soft mud with fine sand mixed; it has 4½ feet water over it at high tide. Near Salier's, about 9 miles S. S. E. of the last mentioned shoal, the channel becomes very narrow and crooked; immediately below Salier's, and about 10 miles from White's Channel, a sand bar occurs with less than 4½ over it at high tide. Having passed the sand bar, the channel deepens as it enters the narrows, which wind in every possible direction through salt marshes for about 1,600 yards to the mud flat, which must be crossed running due S.: it has 4 feet water on it at high tide. S. by E. of the mud flat is the Trout Hole, a narrow channel running due west about 450 yards: it is off the south end of Rattlesnake Island. Thence the channel continues S. by E. one and a half mile to Jew's Quarter, 100 yards below which are the Cross Rocks, an oyster bank, making across nearly the whole width of the sound: the channel here has 5 feet water in it at high tide. Thence the channel runs S. to Powell's Point, round which it winds in a course nearly W. S. W., and then makes eastwardly to Albemarle Sound. It may be proper here to state, that in speaking (in the phraseology of the country) of the tides in Currituck, and the other

sounds and inland waters with which it is connected, a regular periodical ebb and flow of the waters is not to be understood, but that change which is produced by the action of a strong and constant wind in driving the water from one sound into another; for the inlets are so small, compared with the extent and surface of the sounds and creeks, that the causes which produce tides in the ocean and open bays cannot sensibly affect them during the short period of their operation. In Currituck sound the highest tides prevail, usually, in May, sometimes during the month of March; ordinary tides during summer, unless it be very dry, or the wind prevail from the north or west; the lowest tides are in cold weather, and always when the wind is from the north.

To render the sound and river navigable at high tide for vessels of 5 feet draft, it becomes necessary to clear out at least 1,500 yards of the channel at several places and through shoals of various composition; and the distance to be cleared will be greatly increased, if it be thought advisable to make the navigation tolerably direct. But to procure a channel for vessels of 6 feet draft, the distance to be cleared may be very safely stated at 20 miles, or more.

It has, I believe, been suggested that a canal from Currituck court house, or its vicinity, to Indiantown, on Indian or North river, a branch of Albemarle Sound, would avoid the shoals and obviate all objections that can be made to this part of the route. The distance on a right line from the court house to Indiantown may be estimated at 7 miles; and would make the whole distance to be cut, between Norfolk and Albemarle sound, about 16 miles. But admitting that 6 feet water may be had at all seasons between the court house and North river, (which in truth is very problematical) it will be necessary to cut below the level of the surface of the water of the sound, to the depth of at least 6 feet; or, as in the case of the Kempsville canal, to supply water by means of steam machines. The ground between the court house and Indiantown is higher than the ground between Kempsville and Nowith Landing; and to open the canal to 6 feet below the surface of the sound would require, I presume, a section of nearly 30 feet perpendicular, in some places, and the distance from Kempsville to Albemarle sound would be also considerably increased, for Indian river is very crooked.

The other route ordered to be examined, is occupied by the canal which extends from Deep Creek, in Virginia, to Joyce's Creek, in North Carolina: it is 22 miles and 200 yards long, and is cut on two right lines, which at 2 miles within the Virginia line, make with each other an angle of about 147°. This canal passes through the great Dismal Swamp 3½ miles to the eastward of Lake Drummond, or, as it is called in that section of the country, "Drummond's Pond." This canal is supplied, in dry seasons, by a drain from the lake, and in very wet seasons, by the flow of the waters of the swamp. It is, at the feeder, 16 feet 6 inches above the ordinary level of the water in Joyce's Creek, and in dry seasons, at least 6 feet below the level of the lake. Other measurements have made the height of the surface of the lake, above high water mark, in Nansemond river, 24 feet.

The tract of country occupied by the swamp,

lies to the southward, along the head branches of Perquiman's river, Little river, Pasquotank river, and North or Indian river, which flow into Albemarle sound, to the eastward along the branches of North West river which flows into Currituck sound, to the N. E. and N. along the heads of the southern and western branches of Elizabeth river, and to the N. W. along the eastern and southern creeks of Nansemond river; the ridge of land which separates the swamp from the head waters Summerton and Bennet's creeks, lies west of it. From the lake to the high ground west of it, the distance is about 3 miles.

That the swamp is caused by the overflowing of Drummond lake, and of the small streams to the westward of it, and not by its own springs, is an opinion generally entertained by the most intelligent and best informed persons in the neighborhood, and in support of which, very cogent reasons are offered. The ridge of land which separates the heads of Bennet's and Summerton creeks from the swamp is about 10 feet higher than the lake; from this ridge many small streams run to the eastward until meeting with a sudden declivity, from whence also issue innumerable springs of water—they spread over the surface of the land, and fall chiefly into lake Drummond, between Orapeake and Jericho; they cannot, however, be supposed to be equal to the supply of a body of water, which is stated to be nearly 7 miles long, by 5 miles wide, having 9 feet depth of water within 30 yards of its shores, 12 feet at 300 yards, and 14 feet in the centre, and which never shrinks more than 18 or 20 inches in the very driest seasons, but continues to overflow at all times a tract of country so extensive as that which is covered by the Dismal Swamp.

When the canal was projected 25 years ago, it was believed that the country through which it was to be cut was a perfect level, without an inclination of surface sufficient even to enable the waters of the lake to flow off through the canal when it should be opened. It was even feared, it would seem, that should more water than was requisite to fill the canal, be permitted to escape from the lake, the dry and cultivated lands in its vicinity might be injured; and such continued to be the opinion entertained, until a ditch being cut and locks constructed, it was found, when in the dry seasons the water ceased to flow but through the feeder of the lake, that at the head of a lock, the water was deep and smooth, while at some distance from it, and towards the feeder, there was a constant but shallow current.

This circumstance, for the first time, induced an opinion that the country between the tide-waters and the lake was not perfectly level: there were then constructed intermediate locks, yet at the foot of each there has never been more than 18 or 20 inches depth of water. In this situation the canal (if it may be so denominated) remained, until the late war and other circumstances combined to force into view the absolute necessity of a more liberal and enlarged intercommunication between Elizabeth, or Nansemond rivers, and the waters of North Carolina.

During the summer of the present year the managers have engaged in the work of deepening and widening the canal, with a correct and enterprising liberality, which is, however, unfortunately limited by the difficulty of obtaining the requisite funds. They propose, that for the present, it

be cut round the south side of the falls, leaving the produce of the country connected with the Dan, Staunton, and Roanoke rivers, to pass off by the natural channel of the river—whether it be cut from the north side of the river to Murfreesborough, on the Meherrin only—or, finally, whether it be continued up Bennet's Creek to the White Oak Spring Marsh, or to Suffolk, on the Nansemond river, its connexion with the Great Dismal Swamp's canal is intimate and important.

The country with which either of the canals would immediately connect Elizabeth river, is capable of furnishing many materials and supplies for the army and navy: and there may now be had from it red and white oak of a large growth, red cedar, cypress, juniper, holly, beach, poplar, black and sweet gum, white, yellow, and pitch pine, and maple. Much flax is raised, and Indian corn, wheat, tobacco, cotton and hemp, may be had from it. Considerable numbers of horned cattle, sheep, and swine, are raised in the low country for market; and the waters of North Carolina furnish great quantities of shad and herring. Iron ore is found in the mountains, where there are some foundries, and small quantities of lead have been procured; it is probable, that sufficient for the purpose of government might be had, if a communication were opened with the country containing those minerals. An assertion has been hazarded, which, though loose, deserves investigation, that sulphur and salt-petre may be procured from the mountains. Tar and turpentine form some of the principal articles for exportation, and are to be had from the country round Edenton, as well as from other places. It may be satisfactory to exhibit the following list of some of the most bulky articles passed through the Dismal Swamp canal in the year 1815, during the few weeks it was open for navigation: they are exclusive of articles paying toll by valuation, and of the large amount of coasting tonnage which passes to sea through Currituck and Ocracoke inlets, and down Core sound:

6,519,419 shingles,	} from the south and east sides of lake Drummond and exclusive of those sent by the way of Suffolk.
1,160,591 staves,	

16,703 bushels of Indian corn, 2,313 bushels of rice, 2,138 hogsheads of tobacco, 2,762 barrels of fish, 3,575 barrels of tar, 329 casks turpentine spirits, 2,475 bales of cotton, 119 barrels black lead, 327 tons of iron, 181 tons of lead, and powder and shot.

Ship timber and the bulky materials for house building are immediately shipped for their place of ultimate destination; the canal in its present state, being considered incapable of admitting them to pass through it. It is to be considered also, that on account of the difficulty presented by the falls of the Roanoke, the produce of the country bordering on that river, and on its branches, the Dan and Staunton rivers, generally finds its way over land to Petersburg. The country south of the Roanoke, and of Albemarle sound is nearly equally accessible by both routes.

It may be well, also, before concluding this report, (already, perhaps, drawn to too great a length) to observe, that if the navigation of Currituck sound be supposed to possess any peculiar advantages, except of distance, or if the value of the productions of the country bordering on it, or immediately connected with it, should justify the expense of a direct water communication v. v.

Elizabeth river; such communication can be obtained by connecting the head of North West river with the Dismal Swamp Canal. This river has its source in the morass eastward of lake Drummond, and served as one of the drains of that body of water, it crosses the canal north of the feeder and enters Currituck sound south, and within about a mile of the mouth of North river. By clearing out the bed of this stream for the distance of about 4 miles, or by making a lateral canal of much less than that distance, the desired communication would be established at a trifling expense, compared with the cost of a practicable canal by the way of Whitehouse's Landing and North river, and would possess nearly all its advantages, aided by its lateral cut, if we except that of the rapid movement of gun-boats between Lynnhaven bay and Currituck sound.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES KEARNEY,

Major Topographical Engineers.

Geo: Graham, esq.

Acting Secretary of War.

P. S. My report on so much of the order of May 31, 1816, as relates to the defence of the Chesapeake Bay, &c. is in the hands of lieutenant col. George Bomford of the ordnance corps; other materials, collected during the last summer, remain to be reported as occasion shall require.

Respectfully,

J. KEARNEY.

IRISH CATHOLICS.

[In the last and present numbers of the *National Register* we have inserted sundry documents relative to the question pending between the crown of England and the Catholics of Ireland, concerning the *Veto*. This question, to superficial readers, may appear to involve a mere religious squabble: but those who reflect maturely will perceive that it is the last measure of the British monarchy for the incorporation of Ireland with the empire of Great Britain and the total extinction of the ideas respecting Irish independence. England, or South Britain, has gradually subdued and incorporated with herself the Welch and the Scotch; and she will, we apprehend, effect her object as completely with regard to Ireland. The territory of Wales was united to that of England in 1282, by Edward I. and, to flatter the Welch, the king's eldest son was invested with the title of Prince of Wales; a legislative union was formed between the two countries under Henry VIII. in 1537. The territorial union of Scotland with England took place under James I. in 1603, and the legislative union under queen Anne in 1706. The territorial union of Ireland with England was effected under Henry II. in 1172 and the legislative union under George III. in 1800. The population of Ireland, estimated at about 3,500,000 inhabitants, embraces about three Catholics for one Protestant; and the

Protestants being the dominant party, that is, the minority exercising the power of the state, there is a perpetual agitation of the country by the efforts of the Catholics to regain their rights, and the contrivances of the Protestants to keep them in a state of subjugation. If the crown secures the *Veto*, which we think it will, having Grattan and several other Catholic leaders in favor of it, no person will be appointed to the higher clerical offices of the Romish church but the creatures of the British government; and these, in time, will probably succeed in winning the whole Catholic body to submission. The equivalent which the crown offers for the *Veto*, is a participation with the Protestants in all the honorary and lucrative posts of the government. It is a bait at which many individuals, as well as Grattan, will bite.]

From the Cork Mercantile Chronicle.

In our paper of this day will be found the letters of **SIR THOMAS ESMONDE**, Bart. to lord DONOUGHMORE and **MR. GRATTAN**, communicating to them the resolutions of the last Aggregate Meeting in Dublin: as also the answer of the noble lord and the right hon. gentleman. Lord DONOUGHMORE's letter is what, from such a quarter we had reason to expect. He unhesitatingly declares himself the inflexible and uncompromising enemy of *Veto*. His communication deserves the attentive perusal of every honest Irishman; **MR. GRATTAN's** letter is a complimentary card, acknowledging the receipt of the Resolutions, and letter of the *baronet*, with a few unmeaning *etceteras*!!! Is this the patriot whom **MR. FLOOD** termed a ———, and who was the idol of 1782?—*Creditus Judicus!*

4, Chapel-street March 8.

MR LOHR,

I have the honor to enclose the Resolutions adopted at the meeting of the Catholics of Ireland, held on the 6th instant.

It is with peculiar gratification that I undertake this communication to your lordship, as your coincidence of opinion with the tenor of the resolution, and the wishes of the Catholic people and clergy of Ireland, command their utmost gratitude.

The enlightened view your lordship has taken of domestic nomination, which, whilst it quiets all alarm respecting the danger of foreign influence, will, I trust, be deemed to unite a perfectly constitutional system of civil and religious liberty.

I have the honor to be, my lord, with true esteem and respect, your lordship's obedient servant,

THOMAS ESMONDE.

To the Earl of Donoughmore, &c. &c. &c.

Knocklofty, March 12, 1817.

SIR,

On the subject of that Resolution in which, as the organ of the great body of my Roman Catholic countrymen, you desire the concurrence and support of their parliamentary advocates, my answer is easy and explicit: No consideration shall ever induce me to purchase for them civil privileges by the concession of a *Veto* to the ministers of the crown.

To remove every possible apprehension upon the score of that silly and phantastic sophism of

foreign influence, to which expiring bigotry still delights to cling, I have so often and so earnestly, in my place in parliament and elsewhere, endeavored to enforce the necessity of restoring the second order of the Catholic clergy to their ancient and undoubted rights, that I have nothing now to add but to express my perfect concurrence with those sentiments which you have done me the honor of communicating to me on that important part of the question.

To the *Veto* I have an unconquerable repugnance, as entirely uncalled for, and, therefore, an unjustifiable innovation; and because I am sure it would work ill, and introduce court intrigue into the sanctuary of that Church, from which it has been, as yet, excluded. I would resist it also on another account, because I am fully persuaded, that by making them on whom it would be inflicted less pure, and uninfluenced in the selection of their own moral and religious instructors, it would not be calculated, on that account, to improve them much in the relations in which they stand as subjects to the Protestant State.

Of that portion of your Communion, so well entitled on every account, to the highest consideration and respect, who thought it their duty to approach parliament during the last session by a petition separate and distinct from the general body, and who did me the honor of placing that petition in my hands, there are, I am well aware, some who do not view with the same apprehensions which I have avowed, the projected interposition of the ministers of the crown, in those ecclesiastical arrangements, towards the support of which the state contributes nothing.—They will not, however, make a less favorable estimate, as I hope and trust, of the zeal of their advocate in the cause which they have thus confided to him, because he will not condescend to enter into any unseemly compromise or barter on their behalf, nor submit the most important situations of the Roman Catholic Church, to the licencer of the court, whoever may happen to be in this provincial government.

With every acknowledgment for the kindness of your expressions towards myself, I have the honor to be, sir, your faithful humble servant,

DONOUGHMORE.

To sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart.

Chairman of the late Meeting of the Catholics of Ireland.

Dublin, 4, Chapel-street, March, 1817.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose you the resolutions of the Catholics of Ireland, determined on at the aggregate meeting held on the 6th instant.

The Catholics of Ireland, sir, know and appreciate your exertions, both in their cause in particular, and in the cause of their country in general. They with gratitude remember you as the great advocate of their present political liberty, and, with the rest of our countrymen, remember the period of 1782, and revere you as the successful assertor of their country's rights.

Impressed, therefore, with the deepest gratitude for these many services, I beg leave most respectfully to submit to you, the dread the Irish Catholic people entertain of the *Veto*, and their decided preference to remain as they are, to obtaining their emancipation, if connected with that measure. It is neither passion or prejudice that fixes them to this opinion, but the conscientious conviction that it might ultimately injure the re-

ligion they profess, without giving any additional security to the state against foreign influence, which domestic nomination is so amply calculated to effect.

Such being their decided sentiments, their fondly trust to have the good fortune of your powerful advocacy, and that opinions arising from principle may be respected, particularly by you, sir, whose long and tried services in their cause, and that of their country, (pardon the repetition) prompt all to place every confidence in a name so interwoven with the best interests of your country.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient humble servant,

THOMAS ESMONDE.

To the right hon. Henry Grattan.

Tinnelanchy, March 11.

SIR—I was favored with your letter, and the resolutions it contained—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of them. I am extremely flattered by the opinion you entertain of me, and the very kind manner in which you have expressed it, and beg to return you my particular thanks.

I remain, sir, with high respect, your faithful humble servant,

HENRY GRATTAN.

To sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart. &c.

SOUTH AMERICA.

[The following Document, although of an old date, contains information of an interesting nature, and may enlighten our readers as to the real character of the population of that part of South America of which it treats.]

From the Gazette of the Supreme Government of Buenos Ayres—taken in a dispatch boat off Cadiz, by a Buenos Arian cruiser.

[Translated for the Gazette.]

INTERCEPTED LETTERS.

From Pablo Morillo, commander in chief of the Spanish army, to the Minister of State in Spain, dated Ocano, March 27, 1816.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR—In compliance with the commands of his majesty, I have ordered brigadier Don Salvador Moxo to establish without delay, and with the utmost solemnity, the tribunal of the royal audience, having for that purpose despatched an officer from this point with the necessary documents.

Under the impression that this step has been accomplished, and that I have complied with the orders of his majesty, originating, no doubt, in a belief that the tranquillity of Venezuela was secured, I request a few moments of his majesty's attention to the representations of one of his majesty's most faithful subjects, who has never been restrained by any other feeling but a dread of his majesty's displeasure, and who is desirous of communicating the experience which he has acquired in this turbulent and unsettled country.

When the expedition under my command arrived, all the inhabitants apparently recognized its authority, and were grateful for the clemency of the king. But at the moment that I commenced the expedition against Carthagea, hostile movements were observed in the plains, and the pass of Oronoca, by Moragas and Cedoneo, was seized upon for the purpose of attacking the capital. In Cumana insurrection took place, and the rebels

obtained possession of Marturin and Gnyra; but, notwithstanding, the army of his majesty every where triumphed.

The island of Margareta, instigated by the government of Carthagea, no doubt with a view to divert the attack with which it was threatened, displayed the standard of rebellion, and, unfortunately, even at this moment, it remains unsubdued. This event rendered it necessary to draw off the quarter part of the troops which had been employed in dispersing the enemy in Guayana, for the purpose of opposing those in Margareta—but, in the mean time, the rebels in Guayana having increased, and then adopted a system of blockade against the capital, which, I fear, will be productive of more evil, unless that point can be relieved.

Your excellency is well acquainted with the great extent of the island of Margareta, Cumana, Barcelona, Guayana, and the Plains; and I flatter myself that it will be considered as a subject of astonishment, that so small a body of troops have been able to gain any advantage over an enemy decidedly superior in numbers, and who have little to fear from the inclemency of the climate, the mountainous nature of the country and mode of living, all of which are so injurious to European troops.

There is little doubt but that the fate of the kingdom of Santa Fe, will decide that of Venezuela, (provided my troops are reinforced, as I have requested,) but at this moment the first is an event by no means accomplished, nor can the second be expected for this some time, more particularly as the enemy is triumphant at Guayana and Margareta, and Bolivar, with the expedition from the Caycos, is ready to land wherever he may find partizans, upon this exterior and defenceless coast. What then, let me ask you, will be the fate of Venezuela? We shall, no doubt, see the same scenes renewed which afflicted the country during the commotions of Monte Video and Cagigar; and we shall experience the misfortunes which his majesty, by his private instructions, appears so desirous to avoid; and that is to prevent, by all possible means, the lustre and dignity of the royal audience being exposed to the painful necessity, as on former occasions, of seeking shelter among strangers.

By numerous advices which I have received, it appears that the provinces of Venezuela are in a complete state of insurrection, and that their inhabitants are committing outrages which are shocking to humanity. Our forces in that quarter are sick, and will not be able, for any length of time, to resist the attempts of the enemy.

An active police, supplying the deficiency of force, by enabling me to discover the plans and prevent the introduction of the disturbers of the public peace, into those points enjoying tranquillity. For this purpose I have created a separate and special commission, whose attention is wholly confined to objects of this nature. These objects could not be effected, if the form of royal audience were observed, more particularly as this chamber has so much to occupy its attention, necessarily confining itself to affairs which, no doubt, require its immediate notice, but which are not especially connected with the command and tranquillity of the country, without which the ordinary course of justice is suspended, and the regular tribunals rendered less necessary.

I have taken various means in conformity with the authority granted to me by his majesty, the whole or in part contrary to the laws of the Indies, but admissible in Spain, inasmuch as their being immediately under the eye of the sovereign, they could receive his royal sanction. For instance, I have demanded subsistence for my troops—I have ordered public securities to be issued, and after having consulted the different corporations and assessors, named those persons who should manage this concern, directing them to give an account thereof to his majesty, for the purpose of receiving his approbation. With respect to the Ayuntamientos, I have always conceived that they are clothed with a power which has enabled them, in various ways, to do much mischief, either by issuing secret notes or by communicating to the insurgents those plans of the government, which their situation made them acquainted with. They are composed of the Aborigines of the country, and not of its settlers and conquerors, as was formerly the case.

All these steps have been censured and opposed by the royal audience, as unconstitutional, and although they are supported by the captain general, still there will be a division in the command, and at least complaints will be made to the superior authority, if, indeed, it does not end in an open contention for power.

There are two views of the subject which strike me most forcibly at this moment. If the rebels are wholly destroyed, the re-establishment of the royal audience, with its judges selected from those who have not been concerned in the revolution, will be of the utmost importance, inasmuch as it will have many objects which will require its immediate attention. If the revolutionists maintain their ground, it is evident that an observance of the duty and regulations of that body will tend very much to embarrass any one who is not possessed with the ample powers with which his majesty has thought proper to clothe me, and which enables me, together with my having some time since requested, in consequence of my injured health, leave to resign the captain generalship, and the command of the army, to offer my observations to his majesty with less danger of being accused of sinister views than my successor would be.

Few persons are more convinced than I am, that a military government is the most despotic and destructive of the rights of man, it cannot be doubted but it is one which is universally adopted to all cases of insurrection. What government can restrain men in a country where every thing is covered with blood, destruction and horror?—What ties can operate on a population of rebels, who avail themselves of every opportunity of impeding our operations in a country from whence we must draw the means of subsistence for our troops, the expenses of the war which exists in the whole of these provinces? Can our supplies be obtained from any other source? When it is necessary to act with decision and rapidity, is it the time to deliberate? When Spain was invaded, what voice was heard? The error, no doubt, consists, sir, on the part of those who are ignorant of the state of this country; listen to the tales of the emissaries of the rebels, who pretend that, upon the appearance of the king's troops, all the inhabitants ran to meet them, and to bless the day of much happiness. Margareta, Cumana,

and Barcelona, give the answer to those who credit such reports.

In the present situation of the country, the rules and regulations required by the laws of the Indies are completely useless, more particularly in Venezuela. The Americans will not submit to the command of a stranger, particularly if he be an European, and less so if he is a Spaniard. He has submitted to, at present, only to circumstances, and he obeys the king, only until an opportunity of resistance offers.

Each province, most excellent sir, requires a distinct mode of treatment. The government which may suit Santa Fe, will not answer Venezuela, although they adjoin each other. In the first place, there are few negroes or mulattoes—in the second, scarcely any white remain. The inhabitant of Santa Fe has shown himself cowardly and timid—the Venezuelan daring and sanguinary—but in dissimulation and perfidy they are alike. Perhaps this vice-royalty would not have made so obstinate a resistance if it had not have been for the Venezuelans. To the right of Magdalen they have fought various battles with troops organized by Venezuelans. The mountainous and barren province of Antequia has twice declared a war of extermination, and they now are in possession of the passes fortified by Venezuelans. Santa Fe received its sanguinary ideas from the emissaries which were sent from Venezuela, and, in part, all the evils with which this country is afflicted is the work of Venezuela. On their own soil they are audacious, furious; and should they obtain good commanders, a great deal of blood must be spilt before they will be reduced.

When I arrived here with his majesty's expedition, I was struck with horror, at the losses which each action, whether gained or lost, cost us. I believed that this rancor was the work of two parties, each desirous of revenging itself, and I conceived it to be the proper moment to exercise the clemency so much recommended by his majesty. This goodness, without a parallel, is the only point in which strangers in their public papers have not dared to attack a nation to whom they have attributed the character of being sanguinary. What, sir, has been the result of new revolutions, new perfidies, and if the pacification of this vice royalty has been accomplished, it submits only for the purpose of watching a more favorite opportunity of rising, in order to secure safety. New reinforces, as I have repeatedly stated, are necessary, together with an unity of power in the captain generalship, and even then, do not believe that the subjugation of the country is the work of a day, but view it as requiring much perseverance and constancy. The war is a struggle of blacks against whites.

Presenting to his majesty this short picture of the state of Venezuela, I request that he may read with attention what I have said on the occasion. I believe your excellency will be convinced, that this is not the moment to divide the supreme command, but that, on the contrary, it will be necessary to give it a greater unity and durability, not only for the purposes of decision and despatch, but also to prevent those discords of which the rebels, from Mexico to Peru, have, with so much sagacity, availed themselves; although I can, with confidence boast, that there could not have been, between the commanders of the different forces, greater harmony than has been enjoyed by this expedition; but this fortu-

nate state of things cannot be always anticipated, so as to enable us to calculate with certainty upon an event of so much importance as the pacification of the Venezuela.

I believe it to be my duty to repeat, that the supreme command should be placed in the hands of one person, and that his authority should be unlimited; as without it, many delays and evils of the regular tribunals cannot return to the exercise of their ancient functions, until the pacification of all the provinces is completed, and that they ought, at this moment, to be considered as one vast field of battle, in which force is to decide the contest; and that the general may gain the action, either by his talents or good fortune, without any person daring to act otherwise than silently to obey and execute the commands of his chief; and that the rest of the powers which are quiet, should be considered as the deposit from whence the resources to gain the action must be drawn.

I do not, most excellent sir, wish to deceive his majesty. I am desirous that the rebels may be shortly subdued, and for this purpose I have taken the liberty of offering those ideas which my experience has given me; flattering myself that my resignation has placed me in a situation to do so, without being suspected of being influenced by personal feeling, and all my wishes are concentrated in the desire that my predictions may prove false. God protect you for many years.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

CHINA.

The following extracts are from the journal of one of the gentlemen of the British Embassy to China: they are published in a London evening paper:

July 13.—(On board the *Alceste*) sailed from Hong King, near Macao, for the White Sea; a favorable reception having been given to a letter announcing the arrival of the embassy.

July 24.—Reached Pei-ho, Gulph of Pe-che-le. Lying off this place a letter was sent by Lord Amherst, written in the Chinese characters, to the Viceroy of Pe-che-le, enclosing a list of the presents, and of the persons in the embassy.

July 29.—This day Mr. Toone, who was sent on in the *Lyra* with the above letter, delivered it to two Mandarins. They informed him that the viceroy was in Peking, and that it would be at least two days before an answer could be received to the letter.

August 1.—Four officers came off from the Legate Kira Tajin to Lord Amherst.—A gentleman belonging to the embassy was then sent on shore to see the Legate, and answer some questions respecting the mission. When received by the Legate our other officers of rank were present. The interview was but short. The Legate is represented as a cheerful man, of pleasant address and manners. Two of the last mentioned officers, Kwang Tajin and Yin Tajin, are appointed to attend us as Chow and Van of the last embassy.

August 4.—Kwan Tajin and Yin Tajin, who have come on board with presents, have been received by the commissioners with considerable state. At the conversation, none were present but the Commissioners and the Secretary. The Legate, it is understood, objected to the guard and to the number of persons attached to the embassy, wishing to limit the number to 50: our

whole number is 75. It was urged that 20 or 30 persons more than the proposed number could surely be of little importance to so great an empire, and that the embassy should be received on liberal principles.

August 5.—Whether the above objection will be withdrawn time will show; but we are in expectation of landing to-morrow or next day, as most of the presents have already been put into the boats to be landed.

Tuh Ching-tang, one of the Tartar Ministers deputed from Peking to receive the embassy, and ascertain its objects, has already come down to Teen-tsin to receive us. It is probable however, that some intrigue is on foot, for Nay-yeu-ching, the Viceroy of Pe-che-le, who had been ordered to attend the embassy, has been displaced.

August 8.—Still we continue in the roads off Pei-ho. The wind was so high yesterday that we could have no communication with the shore.

This morning the Legate sent his compliments to the Ambassador, requesting him to go on shore. With this request, as the weather had prevented the landing of the baggage, his lordship could not comply. We hope to be on shore to-morrow.

There has been much discussion respecting the ceremony called *Ka-tow*, viz. the nine prostrations. How this question may terminate I know not: our people don't like it, and plead precedent for its omission.

August 9.—Not having made our appearance on shore so soon as was expected, Tuh Chung-tang has returned to court. Another person, Soo Tajin, now fills his place at Teen-tsin.

The foregoing journal presents a sketch of our progress till this date. The people of this neighborhood seem much poorer than the inhabitants of the southern provinces.

At Tung-koo our party was lodged for a night in a temple, but the accommodation was miserable; no bedding was provided. A curious circumstance presented itself. In the temple there is an European picture of Christ crowned with thorns, and the reed in his hand. It was dedicated to the temple by the Emperor Kang-hee, but is neither called Jesus nor Christ. The priest showed our people a 'lesson devoutly to be read before this *Poo-sa*,' a title applied to this picture in common with all the gods and goddesses of China. The lesson is couched in mystical language, the object of which is to express, that the perfections and character of this *Poo-sa* are incomprehensible.

UNITED NETHERLANDS.

Hague, April 12.—"The director general of convoys and licenses, hereby informs all merchants and ship owners, that by article 206 of the law of October 3d, 1816, and in consequence of various decisions made on the subject, the foreign vessels sailing under the following flags: viz. American, English, Danish, East-Friesland, Hamburg, Bremen, Lubec, Mecklenburg, Oldenburgh, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish, Hanoverian, Austrian, as also those of Syria, in which are included those of Aleppo and Alexandrette, are provisionally placed on the same footing, in respect to tonnage duties, as the national vessel.

(Signed)

J. WICHERS.

"Hague, April 10, 1817,

Extract from a letter dated Antwerp, April 14.
 "It has been officially announced here, that in future all vessels arriving at this port will only be subject to tonnage duty of two guilders and twelve stivers per last, once a year, instead of such payments formerly made each time such vessel arrived here. This resolution must be considered of great importance to the traders between England and Antwerp.

(Signed) "A. ELLERMAN,
 "Agent to Lloyds."

HAITI.

By an intelligent gentleman, who arrived at Charleston, on the 16th instant, from Port au Prince, in the Dutch ship *Susannah*, we learn that about the 22d April, the American consul, Mr. Taylor, left that place; having previously struck his flag and resigned his situation, on account of the cargo of an American brig having been condemned by Petion. What were the grounds of the condemnation, we have not learnt.

By the same source we gain the intelligence, that the Carthaginian (or independent privateersmen) are much incensed at the Haytian government, in consequence of their having condemned and sold several Spanish prizes sent in by them. These cruisers had therefore declared and commenced hostilities against Petion, and it was understood they had already captured two or three schooners under the Haytian flag.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

GEORGIA.

Milledgeville, May 13.

Of the settled and inveterate hostility of the Florida Indians against the citizens of this state, there is daily confirmation. In reply to a late communication on this subject, from the executive of Georgia, General Gaines observes, that although the principal part of the force under his command has been particularly designated, for the present, to the section of the country where he is, (the eastern frontier of the Mississippi territory) he anticipates the early receipt of an order to check the depredations of the Savages, and effectually subdue them. Should it be necessary to pursue them to their towns, a requisition will be made on this state for two battalions of infantry, to co-operate with the regular troops. Accompanying the letter of General Gaines, was one from a British agent, who doubtless possesses the talent, if not the inclination, to foment a spirit of discord among the Indians that will tend to their destruction. The following is an extract—it speaks for itself:—

A. Arbuthnot to the commanding officer at Fort Gaines.

"Okolokme River, 3d March, 1817.

"The head chiefs request that I will inquire of you, why American settlers are descending the Chatchauchie, driving the poor Indian from his habitation, and taking possession of his home and his cultivated fields.

"Without authority, I can claim nothing of you; but a humane and philanthropic principle guiding me, I hope the same will influence you—and if such is really the case, and that the line marked out by the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States respecting the Indian nations, has been infringed by any of the citizens

of the latter, that you will represent to them their improper conduct, and prevent its continuance.

"I have, in my possession, a letter received from the governor of New Providence addressed to him by his Britannic majesty's chief secretary of state, informing him of the orders given to the British ambassador at Washington, to watch over the interests of the Indian nations, and see that their rights are faithfully attended to and protected agreeably to the treaty of peace made between the British and the Americans.

"I am in hopes that, ere this, there is arrived at New-Providence, a person from Great Britain, with authority to act as agent for the Indian nations, and if so, it will devolve on him to see that the boundary lines, as marked out by the treaty, are not infringed."

KENTUCKY.

To the Editors of the Lexington Reporter.

Natches, April 19.

GENTLEMEN—The supreme congress of the Mexican Republic, have seen with extreme pleasure, in one of your valuable numbers, the magnanimous and disinterested support which was given to the cause of liberty in Mexico, by the honorable Henry Clay, of Kentucky; a resolution was accordingly entered into by that body, voting him their thanks; and it was ordered that an address be forwarded to Mr. Clay, expressive of their gratitude for the liberality of his sentiments and the generosity of his efforts in the republican cause of Mexico.

The dispatch which bore that address to Mr. Clay, has been, I believe, lost or intercepted; I therefore beg leave, through the medium of your paper, to inform that gentleman of the circumstance, and to solicit him, in behalf of the Mexican people, to continue his friendly sentiments and regards towards that cause, on which the liberty and happiness of millions of our fellow beings depend.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

JOHN HAMILTON ROBINSON.

MARYLAND.

Baltimore, May 27.—Between three and four o'clock this morning, as we are credibly informed, eight criminals made their escape from the Baltimore gaol, by means of powder, with which they effected a breach in the wall that admitted their entrance into a passage leading to the department of the sheriff and keepers. A sentry, who was there stationed, precipitately fled, and they were suffered, without interruption, to regale their appetites at the expense of the gaoler for about half an hour. After having refreshed themselves fully to their satisfaction, scaled the walls encompassing the prison, and have not since been heard of. Their names are Alexander Badger alias Beatty, Andrew Anderson, Lewis Smith, John Thomson Abraham Hoppe, James Brown, a Capt. Miller, and a man by the name of Porter.

The President of the United States, we understand, leaves Washington to day, on his eastern and northern tour. For a few days past he has been confined by indisposition, which we are happy to hear has been entirely removed.